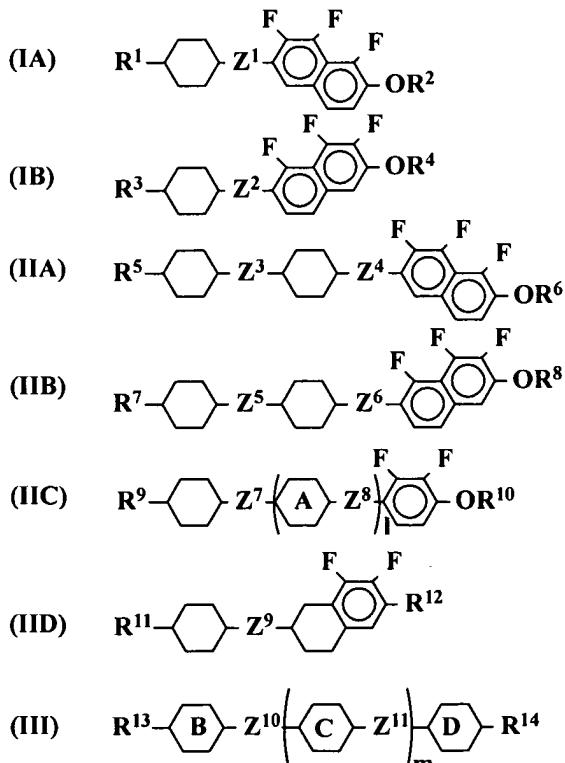


**AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT**

Please substitute the following paragraph for the abstract now appearing in the currently filed specification:

A nematic liquid crystal composition having a negative dielectric constant anisotropy, comprising one or more compounds selected from the compounds represented by (IA) and (IB) of 10-70% by mass, one or more compounds selected from the compounds represented by (IIA) to (IID) of 10-70% by mass, the total content of one or more compounds selected from the compounds represented by (IA) to (IID) being 35-80% by mass, and a compound represented by (III) of 20-65% by mass:



wherein R<sup>1</sup> to R<sup>14</sup> each independently represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, etc.; Z<sup>1</sup> to Z<sup>11</sup> each independently represents a single bond, etc.; Z<sup>1</sup> to Z<sup>6</sup> and Z<sup>9</sup> to Z<sup>11</sup> each independently represents -CF<sub>2</sub>O-, etc.; l and m represent 0 or 1; rings A, B, C and D represent a

trans-1,4-cyclohexylene group, etc.; and rings B, C and D represent a trans-1,4-cyclohexenylene group.